



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wisconsin Army Guard transportation unit alerted for possible active duty

A Wisconsin Army National Guard transportation unit that was mobilized last year received an alert notification for another possible call to active duty last weekend.

The 1158th Transportation Company has an authorized strength of about 300 soldiers, including 35 members assigned to the company headquarters in Tomah, and about 130 soldiers in each of two detachments in Beloit and Black River Falls. The transportation company operates a fleet of 96 Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs), whose mission is to transport a variety of heavy tracked combat vehicles weighing up to 70 tons.

The alert notification directs the unit and its soldiers to begin preparing for possible mobilization, however the unit has not been ordered to active duty. Soldiers began receiving individual notifications Monday [May 10].

The 1158th was ordered to active duty March 15, 2003. Following three months of post mobilization processing and training at Fort McCoy, about half the unit was released from active duty, but 60 soldiers were sent to Fort Irwin, Calif., and 80 others went to Fort Knox, Ky. The soldiers who served at Fort Knox returned home in December, and the Fort Irwin mission was completed in March.

Because this unit was recently mobilized, Wisconsin Guard officials aren't certain how the 1158th Transportation Company might be used if called up again. Generally, soldiers can serve only 24 months on active duty in support of any military contingency operation. Some soldiers in this unit have already served as many as 13 months on active duty following the March 2003 call-up.

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